

Activities of Women Prominent in the Social Life of the Nation's Capital

Society

By E. C. DRUM-HUNT.

The first social season in Washington since this nation entered the world war is drawing to a close and in many ways it has been a remarkable and certainly a most unusual one. The interesting foreigners, the prominent citizens of large cities all over the country—all over the globe, in fact—attracted here in large numbers by war work, the interesting entertainments for relief work of many sorts, the large and official entertainments and the numerous small and informal functions—all have tended to make it quite different from a usual Washington season.

It has been evident, too, that the spirit of service reigns in the social world, and traditions and distinctions have all given way to war, the great leveler. Like the women of the allied nations, the American women, and particularly those living here, are seeing only the big, vital things. In England the unnecessary forms and ceremonies are being put aside and Washington is rapidly reaching the same state of mind. It seems now as if the whole structure of society, shaken to its foundation stones, was already emerging to new and finer ideals.

It has been a short season—Ash Wednesday falling on the 12th of February, before that little month is half over. Such a short season would, under ordinary circumstances, be crowded with parties, several large ones given each day so as to get them all in. In fact, usually when Lent starts so soon, many people observe only Ash Wednesday and Holy Week and continued to entertain and be entertained as at other times. Even this year the social calendar shows quite a few dinner parties scheduled for the Lenten period.

Certainly the past week has been notable in many respects. Not only did it make its entry and its exit with a large charity ball, but it has been marked by quite a number of musical events of unusual interest. There were three large concerts, one on Monday, Thursday and Friday, that given by Mrs. Helen Corbin Heim and Alexander Salsavsky, of the New York Symphony, on Thursday evening at the Willard, and the concert given at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Gaff the same evening by the Duchess de Richelieu for the benefit of the French soldiers suffering with tuberculosis, "the uncrowned heroes of the war."

Certainly nothing brings out the crowd like the Philadelphia Orchestra, under the leadership of Leopold Stokowski, which played here on Thursday afternoon. The house was packed with as interesting an audience as can be gotten together in Washington. Enthusiastic applause greeted each number and everyone pronounced the program too short because so enjoyable. Hans Kindler, the cellist, was presented as soloist and played a charming concerto written for and dedicated to him by George F. Boile, a young American composer. Mr. Kindler has a most interesting personality and pleasing appearance, besides real artistic ability. He is just a mere boy, only 25 years of age, having been born in Rotterdam, Holland, in January, 1892. He was educated in the high school and university of that city. When he was nine years old he began to play the cello, and later he attended the Rotterdam Conservatory, where he studied under Moser, Jean Gerardy and Casals, whom we are to have the pleasure of hearing tomorrow evening.

after waiting impatiently for a fortnight, Mr. Kindler was for two years solo cellist with the Deutsche Opernhaus, Berlin-Charlottenburg, and during his residence in Berlin he taught the cello at the Scharwenka Conservatory. Mr. Kindler has appeared with the principal orchestras in Berlin, Amsterdam, Birmingham, and Hanover under such famous conductors as Mengelberg, Kunwald, Schenker, London and Ronsard. He has also played in joint recitals with Julia Culp, Xaver, Scharwenka and Ferruccio Busoni, who last summer dedicated to him a transcription of a chromatic fantasy by Bach. He has also had the honor of playing for the Prince and Princess of Wied in Berlin.

He is the first cellist of the Philadelphia orchestra. He was recalled many times by the enthusiastic audience. The program, of course, was opened with the playing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" and two beautiful large American flags stood upright on each side of the stage near the boxes.

Practically the same audience attended the concert that evening at the Gaffs to hear the Duchess de Richelieu. The Duchess, with her pretty face and charming personality, Mrs. Thomas T. Gaff or her beautiful home, the French suffering soldiers—one of those things alone would attract a large gathering, and the combination was irresistible. The ballroom was filled with handsome men and women, the smartest in town.

In spite of the lateness of the season, many of the women were wearing the best-looking gowns seen anywhere this season.

Margaret Perin was very striking in an unusual looking black satin gown, made on the very newest lines, with the bodice cut high in front in a straight line running from shoulder to shoulder and reaching up to the throat, but in back cut very low and V shaped. A wide girde of black beads was wrapped and tied loosely around her waist, emphasizing the graceful lines of her slender figure. There were several beautiful velvet gowns seen there, cut on long, graceful, semi-princess lines, with fish-tail trains. Mrs. Victor Kaufman wore that evening a stunning and it is suspected to be new—evening dress. The upper part made of heavy black satin elaborately embroidered in silver, with a large shawl collar of skunk, white pleated onto that was a skirt of black velvet.

The ballroom was lively; it is quite simple and yet isn't. It is square, with walls and ceiling all white while heavy yellow brocade hangings were at the windows. Large mirrored doors opened out on to a lovely Italian garden. The khaki uniforms of our officers were quite outnumbered for once, by the uniforms of French soldiers. The French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand were there quite naturally, as they are particularly interested in the poor men who the White Plague, silently stalking through the trenches and camps, has fallen from the ranks, broken in health and heart and because they are useless, have been sent back home to linger and die. They are not even entitled to pens for them to show no wounds, though they have done their best and have given their all for their country. Perhaps they would never have been remembered except for the fact that their numbers grew until they became a national danger, to their children, their wives. The ruthless irony of Fate has made them enemies among their own.

A very large number of French soldiers have been stricken with tuberculosis, a far heavier toll than that of all other diseases combined, and for these unfortunate thousands the French government has been unable to provide more than \$700,000. Twenty-seven sanatoria have been started, but the number of beds does not exceed 2,500; only the curable cases are admitted for a period of about three months, thus the number of patients averages 10,000 or less than 10 per cent of the known total. Such were the conditions when the National Association was founded last April in Paris under the patronage of the President of the French Republic, and the Chairmanship of Leon

was born in London and studied music in Paris. Two more concerts by the Philadelphia Orchestra are still to store for us, one on March 7 and the other on March 21.

Mrs. Wilson occupied a box, of course, on Thursday and looked particularly handsome in a large black velvet picture hat and a black satin and Georgette crêpe gown, with one large rose as the only bit of color. Mrs. Thomas Chadbourn was one of her guests, and looked very distinctive in a tall white hat and a huge white ermine scarf that almost enveloped her.

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MME. VIGNAL,
Wife of the Military Attache of the French Embassy.

And they surely can play the "Star-Spangled Banner" and get more music out of it than most orchestras! This was the first time Stokowski's new orchestration arrangement of the national anthem has been heard in Washington. The old orchestration was intended for a small orchestra of fifty or sixty and was not considered impressive enough by Stokowski, who arranged it for 100 men and improved and enriched the harmonies.

No, again, in answer to the question asked every time the Philadelphia Orchestra comes to Washington, Stokowski is not German nor Austrian, but in spite of his name was English before he came to this country. He

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hearing granted him by the famous Lamoureux, became immediately incorporated to the modern musical movement with a unique prestige. His influence on the Orientation of contemporary music cannot be overlooked, for it has been of fertile consequences in the attainment of the high artistic level that constitutes nowadays the aspiration of instrumentalists and interpreters of music.

Born in Vendrell, a small town by the Mediterranean in the province of Tarragona, Casals learned the rudiments of music from his father and studied under him the piano and the violin. When 15 years old already appeared as violinist with several orchestras, while at the same time studying the violoncello under Garcia, a well-known cellist of the time. It was at a concert by this same Garcia that Casals, then 13 years old, was so impressed with the range of expres-



MISS JULIETTE CROSBY,
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar J. Crosby.

ion that the cello offers that he decided to make it his instrument. For some time he was first cellist of the Liceo of Barcelona, the first opera house in Spain, and one of the three best known in Europe. When 17 the queen regent, Maria Cristina, granted Casals a pension from her private purse and had him educated by Count Murphy, her private secretary and tutor to the present King Alfonso XIII. At the same time Casals continued his musical studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid. Two years later Count Murphy sent him to Brussels to finish his musical education, but the young musician decided that Paris was the proper place for his activities, and, unable to convert the count to his way of thinking, renounced his royal pension and proceeded to Paris, where a few months later he appeared at the Lamoureux concert and was at once acclaimed the cellist of the age.

Casals has appeared before all the sovereigns and courts of Europe, and has been repeatedly decorated by them. He is a Chevalier of the orders of Isabella the Catholic and Carlos III, and Grand Cross of Alfonso XII, of Spain; Chevalier of the orders of Christ and Santiago, of Portugal; "Tour de Merite" of Germany; Academie Palms, officer of instruction publique and Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, of France; knight of the Crown of Rumania and of Francis Joseph of Austria; academicien and honoree of the Royal St. Cecilia Society of Italy; president of the Chamber Music Society of Barcelona; The London Philharmonic Society has bestowed on him the Beethoven Gold Medal, the highest distinction to which a musician can aspire.

A collector of rare taste and profound knowledge, Casals has accumulated in his Paris and Vendrell houses a wealth of artistic treasures, among them Watteau's most famous painting, "L'Enfermeur pour Cythere," which experts consider priceless.

Like last week, this week will be inaugurated with a ball, the Catholic University prom tomorrow evening, not to mention the dancing club at the Willard. There will be two dinners next week, that of Miss Nellie Claire Howard and Andrew Strong White, of New York, on Tuesday, and Miss Constance Weaver and H. Clay Thompson, of Wilmington, next Saturday; a dinner at the Mexican embassy on Tuesday and one at Mrs. Richard Townsend's on Thursday—sounds like society will only pause, after all, for a breath on Ash Wednesday. Last week, there were many dinners, according to the present signs, will be interspersed with dinners and charity events, with an outburst of informal parties after its expiration.

Last week, there were many dinners, most of them being given complimentary to the Vice President and Mrs. Marshall Joseph Folk, who left Washington last night for St. Louis to begin a general tour of the Chamber of Commerce there, and Mrs. James Channon, who is visiting Congressman

Two sons, all they have, and two sons-in-law; that is about all that

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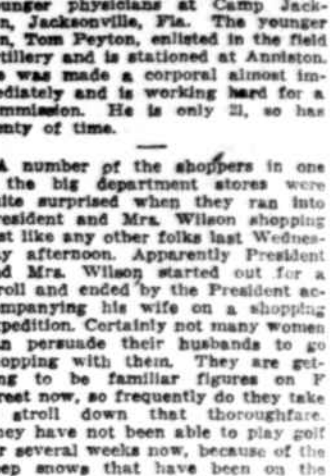
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One lady actually said

John, if we ever do have a fire, I'll look after baby. You hurry down into the cellar and save

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